

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Nov. 29 – Dec. 3, 2010
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Please be sure to complete our brief DCQW survey. It will only take a few minutes and will provide us with valuable feedback. See link at bottom of this week's question.

Which person below is credited with founding the first formal educational program for Deaf students in Washington which later became the Washington School for the Deaf?

- a. Rev. W. D. McFarland
- b. Governor Watson C. Squire
- c. James Watson
- d. Dewey Hansford Deer

Answer: “a” – Rev. W.D. McFarland – “In the Washington Territory, there was no deaf school and most deaf children attended a deaf school in Salem, Oregon. Rev. W.D. McFarland had taught there for a few years.

Rev. McFarland moved to Tacoma to start a class for deaf students in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church in 1885.

The Washington Territory Legislature of 1885-86 passed a bill to build the Washington School for Defective Youth. On February 3, 1886, Governor Squire signed the bill into law.” (Accessed and quoted from: mhtml:http://www.wsd.wa.gov/documents/aboutdocs/WSD_history.mht!WSD_history_files/frame.htm)

Another interesting fact about Rev. W.D. McFarland, he was among only a very few citizens of Tacoma who stood up in opposition to racially motivated mob action against Chinese immigrants. On November 3, 1885 citizens of Tacoma, including the Mayor of Tacoma, rose up to expel Chinese immigrants from the city. Rev. W.D. McFarland protests were unsuccessful and over 500 Chinese families either left Tacoma voluntarily or were forced from their homes and herded out of town never to return. In 1993, the Tacoma City Council passed a resolution to make amends and to apologize for the former city leaders' actions. Read about this shameful action here:

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=pf_output.cfm&file_id=5063

Please take a few minutes to complete the DCQW Survey:

DCQW has been published weekly during the school year since January 2008. We want to collect information about who reads DCQW, how you use it (which how is it?), which kinds of questions you like best, etc. We created a short survey to collect information. It is completely anonymous. Please take a few moments to complete our survey. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L7RQNVX>

Note: All previous issues of DCQW are archived at the Washington School for the Deaf website: www.wsd.wa.gov